

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREAS

USSDAG

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USCG POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JULY 23 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FY 75 BILL THAT APPROPRIATES 13.5 BILLION DOLLARS
FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND CONSUMER PROGRAMS PASSES SENATE BY 71-16. ALSO
CONTAINS LANGUAGE DESIGNED TO STOP USE OF LARGE
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AMOUNTS OF FOOD FOR PEACE MONEY FOR MIL PURPOSES
IN INDOCHINA SINCE LIMITS EACH NATION TO NO MORE
THAN TEN-PERCENT OF FOOD FOR PEACE BUDGET (AP, SUN;
WP).

2. VIENTIANE MEDICAL SOURCES SAY SOUVANNA IS RUNNING SLIGHT FEVER TRACED TO MINOR LUNG INFECTION (UPI, NYDN).

3. REBELS AMBUSH JEEP CARAVAN CARRYING BG CHANTARANGSEI, HIGH-RANKING KHMER POLITICAL AND MIL OFFICIAL, AT POINT 47 MILES SW OF PP ON ROUTE 4; ONE SOLDIER KILLED BUT CHANTARANGSEI ESCAPED UNINJURED. FIELD REPORTERS SAY HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES ON ROUTE 4 ABOUT 55 MILES SW OF CAPITAL (UPI, NYT).

4. SAIGON POLICE SEAL OFF STREET WHERE NGO BA THANH

HAD CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE AT HER HOUSE TO TELL REPORTERS GVN- INSPIRED GROUP KEPT HER FROM ATTENDING NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION GIVEN BY POLISH ICCS DELEGATION. POLICEMAN TELLS NEWSMEN PRESS CONFERENCE FORBIDDEN. GVN OFFICIALS MAKE NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON MRS. THANH'S CHARGES (REUTER SAIGON).

5. SAIGON COMMAND SAYS COMMUNIST ATTACKS INCREASE SHARPLY IN SVN'S NORTHERN REGION; DISTRICT TOWN OF DUC DUC, 25 MILES SW OF DA NANG, UNDER SIEGE FOR FIVE DAYS. QUANG NGAI IS HARDEST HIT PROVINCE, WITH 467 HOUSES DESTROYED IN COMMUNIST ATTACKS (REUTER, SUN). DUC DUC VIRTUALLY ISOLATED, CAN BE SUPPLIED ONLY BY AIR. UPI PHOTOGRAPHER WHO FLEW OVER SUNDAY REPORTED THAT TOWN OF 25,000 ALMOST DESERTED, WITH THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES STREAMING ON FOOT TOWARD DA NANG (AP, WP).

6. MCCOMBS (WP) FROM SAIGON QUOTES EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW THAT NVN'S GIAP SPENT TIME LAST YEAR IN CANCER WARD OF MOSCOW HOSPITAL. COMMENTS THAT SCATTERED REPORTS FROM VISITORS TO HANOI VARY, WITH SOME SAYING HE LOOKED THIN AND SICK, OTHERS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT HE APPEARED RELATIVELY HEALTHY. GIAP BELIEVED TO HAVE HODGKINS DISEASE OR CANCER OF NEUROLOGICAL SYSTEM. IN ANY CASE, SEEMS CERTAIN FROM RECENT SHIFTS IN NVN MIL COMMAND THAT GIAP, 63, IS DECREASINGLY ACTIVE IN DAY-TO-DAY DECISION-MAKING, THOUGH UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IMPLIES SIGNIFICANT LESSENING OF HIS INFLUENCE ON OVERALL POLICY. IMPORTANT SHIFT WAS PROMOTION OF VAN TIEN DUNG TO FOUR-STAR RANK, MAKING HIM GIAP'S ONLY EQUAL.

DUNG NOW ACTING DEFMIN AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES, AND LIKE GIAP IS MEMBER OF POLITBURO. GIAP'S AILMENT CAN DEVELOP SLOWLY SO HE MAY LIVE

SEVERAL MORE YEARS. SPECULATION ON HIS CONDITION AND INFLUENCE COMES AT TIME OF INTENSE DEBATE ON FUTURE MIL POLICY IN HANOI. DEBATE CENTERS ON INTERRELATED QUESTIONS: SHOULD NVA BE "SUPER-GUERRILLA" FORCE OR MODERN, WESTERN-STYLE ARMY; HOW MUCH OF LIMITED RESOURCES SHOULD GO TO MIL AND HOW MUCH TO REBUILDING FLAGGING ECONOMY; AND WHAT POLICY SHOULD BE FOLLOWED TO ACHIEVE VICTORY IN SOUTH SOON AS POSSIBLE? GIAP IS FAMOUS FOR "PEOPLE'S WAR" CONCEPT THAT USES LIMITED RESOURCES. AFTER US FORCES ARRIVED IN SVN, DUNG ARGUED FOR MODERNIZATION, BUT NOT CLEAR HOW GIAP'S DECLINE OR DEATH MIGHT AFFECT BALANCE IN DEBATE.

KOREA

.. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD, IN SEOUL, SAYS US OFFICIALS THERE RE PRIVATELY INDICATING THEIR CONCERN TO S. KOREANS OVER POSSIBLE EFFECT OF CURRENT WAVE OF POLITICAL TRIALS ON CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR SK, ALTHOUGH PUBLICLY AND OFFICIALLY AMEMBASSY HAS DONE NOTHING TO CRITICIZE PARK'S REPRESSIVE EMERGENCY DECREES AND SERIES OF SECRET COURT MARTIALS THAT HAVE ALREADY CONVICTED NEARLY 100 DISSIDENTS AND CRITICS OF ROKG. NO WORD HAS APPEARED IN SK PRESS ABOUT UPCOMING HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON BANNING US A D TO ANY NATION HOLDING POLITICAL PRISONERS -- ALTHOUGH HEARINGS ARE EXPECTED TO FOCUS LARGELY ON ROK.
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BUTTERFIELD SAYS SPREADING POLITICAL TRIALS APPEAR TO HAVE COME AS SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT TO AMEMBASSY, "WHOSE VERY SITUATION" SUGGESTS CLOSE US-SK TIES; IT STANDS ALMOST OPPOSITE CAPITOL AND KYONGBOK PALACE, WHERE KOREA'S KINGS ONCE RESIDED.

ROK ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION HAS FALLEN BEHIND SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL CUTS, ANGERING SOME SK LEADERS. SECRET POLITICAL TRIALS NOW SERVE TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED US PRESENCE AND AID TO PARK. IN ADDITION, POLITICAL TRIALS HAVE BECOME EMBARRASSING BECAUSE THEY HAVE CAUGHT UP SOME PROMINENT FIGURES WITH NAMES AND TITLES RECOGNIZABLE IN US, NOT JUST FACELESS STUDENTS. NOT ONLY WHAT US CAN DO BUT WHAT IT SHOULD DO ABOUT TRIALS IS UNCERTAIN BECAUSE US INFLUENCE HAS BEEN DECLINING IN SK FOR YEARS. SAYS UNDER NIXON DCOTRINE, MOST OFFICIALS THINK THIS HAS BEEN HEALTHY TREND. IN THIS SITUATION, ACCORDING SOME SOURCES, US OFFICIALS HAVE LIMITED THEIR ACTIONS TO INDICATING PRIVATELY AND CAREFULLY THEIR CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF PARK'S POLICIES ON US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO EMBASSY WARNINGS, ACCORDING BUTTERFIELD, ONLY -- AS ONE MAN FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION PUT IT -- "SOME EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AS DIPLOMATS DO IN THEIR NORMAL COURSE OF WORK." NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY ATTEMPT TO APPEAL TTION G ON MORAL GROUNDS, ONLY ON BAS S OF WHAT ACTION CONGRESS MIGHT TAKE ON QUESTION OF AID. ON OTHER HAND, PUBLICLY, AMB. HABIB HAS CONTINUED ATTENDING REGULAR DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS AND HIS PICTURE APPEARED LAST WEEK ON FRONT PAGES OF KOREAN PAPERS IN COMPANY OF KIM JONG PIL (EXCERPTED IN SUN).

8. BISHOP DANIEL CHI GOES ON TRIAL JULY 23 IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED PLOT TO OVERTHROW PARK GOVT., ACCORDING AP (SUN) AND WP SERVICE (PHINQ) SEOUL REPORTS. BUT WP ITEM REPORTS BISHOP CHI ANNOUNCING THAT HIS TRIAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED FOR UNKNOWN REASONS. NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION WHEN OR WHETHER TRIAL WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCEED ONCE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION HAS DIMINISHED. MASS PRAYERS AND VIGILS HELD FOR BISHOP CHI MONDAY BY CATHOLICS IN SEOUL AND IN JAPAN. HE DECLARED TO CROWD THAT HE WILL REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH HIS EXPECTED TRIAL, AS KCIA GUARD TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM SPEAKING.

CHINA

9. REUTER'S PEARCE, IN PEKING, SAYS PRC HAS SET SIGHTS ON NOTHING LESS THAN MEMBERSHIP IN EVERY INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATION AND GROC'S EXCLUSION FROM INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION. DRIVE SO FAR HAS BROUGHT CHINA MEMBERSHIP IN 9 SPORTS FEDERATIONS AND RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ASIAN GAMES AT TEHERAN NEXT SEPT; BUT PEKING OBSERVERS FEEL THIS WILL REACH CLIMAX WHEN PRC EVENTUALLY REJOINS IOC. PRC HAS INVITED TAIWANESE SPORTSMEN TO JOIN IN TRIALS FOR TEHERAN GAMES SO THEY COULD COMPETE UNDER CHINESE FLAG. SOME TAIWANESE LIVING IN JAPAN AND US ARE REPORTED TO HAVE COME TO CHINA FOR TRIALS.

10. JOC'S STRAUSS REPORTS CURTIS ANDERSON, PRES OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HK, PREDICTING US-PRC TRADE COULD REACH 5 BILLION DOLS ANNUALLY BY 1980 IF PEKING IS GRANTED MFN STATUS. BUT ANOTHER COMMENTATOR OF PRC TRADE, WHO IS CORRESPONDENT OF HK COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER IN PEKING, DIFFERS, SAYING CHINA WILL GIVE PREFERENCE TO W. EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE GOODS BECAUSE THESE COUNTRIES "ARE BUFFETED BY THE SUPERPOWERS." ACCORDING THIS REASONING, TWO FEATURES COULD AFFECT SINO-US TRADE OR RESULT IN ONE OR TWO

SHORT DEALS FOR US. ONE IS "OVERWHELMING ONE-SIDENESS OF TRADE" IN FAVOR OF US, AND OTHER IS US "UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT HIGH US TARIFFS ON CHINESE IMPORTS."

STRAUSS SAYS HK OBSERVERS ARE WONDERING WHETHER ARTICLE WAS INSPIRED BY PRC TRADE OFFICIALS. SAYS DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED FOR MORE THAN YEAR INCREASING CHINESE IRRITABILITY OVER LACK OF MFN STATUS. BUT EVEN IF TARIFFS ON CHINESE GOODS WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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REGULARIZED, BUSINESSMEN AND TRADE EXPERTS WONDER

HOW FAR THIS WOULD GO TOWARDS RIGHTING TRADE BALANCE. PRODUCTS LIKELY TO BE POPULAR IN VS MARKET --RADIOS, WATCHES, CAMERAS, GARMENTS, ETC. -- WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY AT RECENT CANTON FAIR SESSION, AND TRADERS HAVE GENERALLY FOUND SUCH ITEMS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN IN CHINA. PEKING HAS YET SHOWN NO INTEREST IN SELLING OIL TO US, AND EVEN IF IT SHOULD, JAPAN IS LIKELY TO OUTBID US. MEANWHILE, LI CHIANG HAS REPEATED IN RECENT MAGAZINE ARTICLE THAT FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN CHINA'S OIL DEVELOPMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

11. AFP (HK) REPORTS THAT BRITAIN'S AIR LINK WITH PEKING MAY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR, ACCORDING SOURCE CLOSE TO AVIATION INDUSTRY, BECAUSE LABOR'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR GENERAL ELECTION LATER THIS YEAR LEAVE LITTLE TIME TO NEGOTIATE AIR AGREEMENT (WP).

12. NYT'S MARVINE HOWE, IN BRASILIA, REPORTS THAT TALK OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC IS AMONG SIGNS OF TIMES IN BRAZIL'S CAPITAL. GOB COMMERCE MINISTER SPEAKS OPTIMISTICALLY OF INCREASED TRADE WITH CHINA, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY OF TRADING IRON FOR PRC COAL, AND PRC TRADE MISSION DUE IN BRAZIL NEXT MONTH.

JAPAN

13. SUN'S REHERT WRITES EXHORTATORY ARTICLE ON NEED TO ADHERE TO BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE GOODS SPONSORED BY US ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO FORCE JAPAN'S WHALING INDUSTRY TO ACCEPT MORATORIUM.

14. JAPAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION REPORTS FIRST HALF PRODUCTION DOWN 9.8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR'S (WSJ; CSM).

15. MITSUI TOATSU CHEMICALS AND NIPPON SYNTHETIC CHEMICAL
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AGREE TO PAY 8 MILLION DOLS "CONSOLATION" TO 107
FISHERY UNIONS IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED MERCURY
POISONING IN SEA OF ARIAKE, WHILE REFUSING TO
ACKNOWLEDGE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH MERCURY LEVELS
THERE (WSJ).

INDONESIA

16. IN HK, MALIK SAYS TALKS WERE HELD IN PARIS LAST YEAR
WITH PRC WHERE IT WAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO NORMALIZE
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (WP).

17. JOINT US - INDONESIAN SEARCH TEAM HAS DISCOVERED VOICE
AND FLIGHT RECORDERS FROM WRECKAGE OF PAN AM PLANE THAT
CRASHED IN BALI LAST APRIL (AFP, WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CAMBODIA

18. KHMER INFO ATTACHE WRITES LETTER TO S-N EDITOR
(JULY 22) SAYING HE'S GRATEFUL TO BRADSHER FOR
ADMITTING IN RECENT ARTICLE ("US CAMBODIA EFFORT
ERODING") THAT COMMUNIST HAVE NOT INCREASED
THEIR POPULARITY SINCE 1970, AND THAT DEPOSING
OF SIHANOUK "WAS POPULAR AS ENDING A CORRUPT
CONCENTRATION OF POWER." BUT TAKES EXCEPTION
TO BRADSHER WRITING OF "ONE-PARTY" SYSTEM,
CHALLENGE TO LONG BORET CABINET BY NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, AND US "POWER" TO WIELD LIFE OR DEATH
OVER KHMER REPUBLIC. RE LATTER, CONCEDES THAT
GKR AND PEOPLE GET INVALUABLE AID AND ASSISTANCE
FROM US THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY HELPED THEM IN
FIGHT TO REMAIN FREE FROM COMMUNIST RULE AND
TYRANNY. ADDS, HOWEVER, IT IS "IRREFUTABLE FACT"
THAT "IT IS OUR VALIANT SOLDIERS AND PEOPLE WHO
ARE FIGHTING AND DYING EVERY DAY FOR THEIR JUST
CAUSE AND FOR A REGIME OF THEIR OWN CHOICE."

19. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S JOHN BURNS (CSM) IN PEKING
REPORTS "GOLDEN MONKEY" (EARLIER IDENTIFIED AS IN-
DUSTRIAL WORKER NAMED CHEN CHIA-CHOU) DEFYING
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CRITICS WHO UNMASKED HIM TWO WEEKS AGO, RESURFACING
WITH ANOTHER POSTER DENOUNCING "HANDFUL OF CAPITALIST
ROADERS" HE ALLEGES TO BE ENSCONCED IN TOP ECHELONS
OF LOCAL PARTY HIERARCHY. IN SERIES OF FIVE YELLOW

SHEETS, POSTER SET FORTH FAMILIAR INDICTMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP FOR FOSTERING CLIMATE OF "RETROGRESSION, BACKSLIDING, AND RESTORATION" SINCE GPCR. PROTEST HEWED CLOSELY TO PARTY CANONS, CITING MAO WRITINGS AND RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL IN SUPPORT OF CONTENTION THAT EMERGENCE OF CAPITALIST ELEMENTS IN LEADING CCP ECHELONS IS INEVITABLE AND CAN ONLY BE COMBATTED BY "STRUGGLE." POSTER SAID REACTIONARY ELEMENTS HAD "CALLED OUT PLAIN CLOTHES POLICEMEN ARRESTED AND BEATEN UP PEOPLE, USED FIREHOSES AND EVEN DISPATCHED MEN TO TEAR DOWN THE BIG CHARACTER POSTERS PUT UP BY THE MASSES." BURNS NOTES THAT CLOSE ATTENTION TO ORTHODOX SCRIPTS REPRESENTED CHANGE IN STYLE FOR GOLDEN MONKEY, WHOSE TRADEMARK IN PREVIOUS POSTERS HAS BEEN APPARENT LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT MAOIST CONVENTIONS, INCLUDING ONE THAT REQUIRES ALL PARTIES IN DISPUTE TO MARSHAL MAO QUOTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR ARGUMENTS .

20. JOINING GOLDEN MONKEY IN POSTER WAR WAS LU TUNG-MIN, LEADER OF GROUP OF SIX FORMER MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE WHO LAUNCHED POSTER DRIVE ON JUNE 13. TWENTY FRESH SHEETS IN VIVID PINK WENT UP JULY 19 RENEWING ATTACK, THOUGH IN SOMEWHAT MORE MODERATE TERMS. WRITING ON BEHALF OF GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS CLAIM THEY WERE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE AS "MASSES' REPRESENTATIVES" DURING GPCR BUT OUSTED SOON AFTERWARDS, LU REVEALED THAT INITIAL POSTER ATTACK PROMPTED MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF HIGH-RANKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS. AT MEETING, THE SIX RENEWED THEIR DEMAND THAT COMMITTEE HOLD PLENARY SESSION, ITS FIRST FOR MORE THAN FOUR YEARS. BUT NEW POSTER CLAIMED DELEGATION REFUSED ON GROUNDS THERE WERE TOO MANY "516" ELEMENTS (ULTRA-LEFTISTS WHO WERE SUPPOSEDLY SUPPRESSED IN GPCR'S AFTERMATH) LEFT AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

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21. FROM HK, CDN'S KEYES BEECH (JULY 20-21) CITES SOME OHIO STATE U STUDENTS REPORTING AFTER TWO-WEEK PRC TRIP THAT ANY ATTEMPT AT OPEN DIALOGUE ON COMPARATIVE SEX MORES WITH CHINESE COMMUNISTS CAN HAVE THORNY RESULTS. CHINESE-AMERICAN MEMBER OF GROUP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD SEX WAS MORE CHINESE THAN COMMUNIST, ADDING, "WHAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE DONE IS TO BUILD ON TRADITIONAL CHINESE SEX MORES." HOWEVER, BEECH CITES STUDENTS REPORT SEEING NO LACK OF CONTACT BETWEEN SEXES.

22. LAT'S KIM BLAIR (JULY 19) REPORTS JOAN LEBOLD COHEN (LECTURER, WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO TEACHES ASIAN

ART AT BOSTON'S MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS) SPEAKING JULY 17
UNDER FAR EASTERN ART COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP AT COUNTY
MUSEUM OF ART (ON "A MAOIST VIEW OF ART AND HISTORY").
MRS. COHEN AND HUSBAND, HARVARD LAW PROF JEROME ALAN
COHEN, VISITED PRC IN 1972 AND ARE COAUTHORS OF BOOK,
"CHINA TODAY AND HER ANCIENT TREASURES," TO BE
PUBLISHED NOV. 1.

MRS. COHEN CHARACTERIZES TRIP TO PRC AS "NALKING
INTO A MUSICAL COMEDY AND PLAYING A LEADING ROLE."
CITES MAO THAT THERE IS NO ART FOR ART'S SAKE;
NOTES THAT WHILE CHINESE PRESERVE, DISPLAY AND GLORIFY
THEIR PAST TREASURES, THEY ALSO USE THEM AS LESSONS
IN IDEOLOGY AND CLASS STRUGGLE.

23. CHESTER RONNING, RETIRED CANADIAN DIPLOMAT CLOSELY
INVOLVED IN NUMBER OF IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL
NEGOTIATIONS TOUCHING ON US FAR EASTERN POLICIES
OVER PAST THREE DECADES, AUTHORS BOOK, "A MEMOIR OF
CHINA IN REVOLUTION: FROM THE BOXER REBELLION TO
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC." IN REVIEWING BOOK, ERIC
HENRY, YALE STUDENT IN FAR EASTERN STUDIES, NOTES
THAT CANADIAN GOVT. WAS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA THROUGHOUT THIS LONG
PERIOD (IT DID SO IN 1970) BUT FOUND ITSELF UNABLE
EITHER SIGNIFICANTLY TO MODIFY OR ENTIRELY DISASSOCIATE
ITSELF FROM WHAT IT REGARDED AS EXTREME AND INTRANSIGENT
NEGOTIATING STANCES OF US. SAYS INSOFAR AS IT IS
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RECORD OF SUSTAINED DIPLOMATIC EFFORT, RONNING'S BOOK
IS ALMOST UNRELIEVED STUDY IN FRUSTRATION (WP).

LAOS

24. NYT VIEWS SOUVANNA AS INDISPENSABLE MAN WHO ALONE
IS BELIEVED ABLE BOTH TO HOLD COALITION GOVT.
TOGETHER - AND MAKE IT WORK. TWO DEPUTY PREMIERS,
ONE FROM EACH SIDE, MAY BE ABLE TO PRESIDE ALTERNATELY
OVER COALITION CABINET FOR SHORT PERIOD AND KEEP
COUNTRY GOING. BUT, UNLESS SOUVANNA MAKES RAPID
RECOVERY, SAYS NYT, LAOS WILL SOON BE HEADED INTO
UNKNOWN. WITH NO SUCCESSOR IN SIGHT WHO COULD
COMMAND SUPPORT OF BOTH SIDES, POWER STRUGGLE,
ENDANGERING LAO SETTLEMENT, WOULD BE HARD TO AVOID.
KISSINGER

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